SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 20-21

Letters to Elder George from
Elisa A. Stratton and Henry
[?C. Blinn], Shaker Village,
N.H., dated May-Sept., 1874

We come before Thee Father above To speak of Thy

3:
4: q | q e q | e d c | a c a | q r e | f q a | w

goodness, to sing of Thy love To make our

q f e | d e | f | q r q | e d c | w

prayers Thy aid to implore To strengthen our

c a ab | c b a | q r q | f e d | w

souls life's burdens to bear. Establish, establish

c b a | q a b | c r :|| e e q e | f a w

our wayward feet Which guide in wisdom

q q f | e d r | e f | q c c | d c w

whose paths are strait Though trials be many

d | e c d | e r e f | q f e | d c w

and often severe Be Thou ever present Thy help ever near.

c | c b a | q r q | c d e | f e f | q f d | c r ||

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I believe these journal notes of Elder H. C. Blinn of western journey — have been copied into a book which you will find somewhere in box —
There are at least two sheets lacking here but I have put together all I could find — M. C. A

Gift [Catherine Allen

The marrying of family decora-
tion all belonged to the
East House or a Melotom
family now a row in
grain fields

The green laurel doors of
the Church stood before
With the spray parcel
on her stunning brow

I now thank [?] to tell of these & copy them off with other things when all is done as those I had of late looked them over

over A W C M & copy F W 60 year old woman full & what it takes to be a Shaker from Mansfield

[illegible]

Wednesday, May 28th. Just returned from breakfast. A.M. Writing a letter. Br. Micajah Burnett, came to the Office soon after the bell rang, and tarried about 3/4 of an hour. Elder George Runion also called, He says, "Tell the dear folks at home that they must not expect you to write so much. You seem to be busy every time I come to see you. We all want to converse with you." And the good aged man breathes a blessing, and retires.

We now listen to the whistle of the steam engine, they are sawing wood. The engine is portable; on wheels. They use the same in the several fields, where they thresh the grain. We now find the apple to be 3/4 of an inch in diameter. Peaches about the same. Cherries are ripe. Peas ready to pick. From our window we see the hills of sweet potatoes. A novel sight indeed. They are about a foot high, and in the top is placed a potatoe slip, from which the fruit grows.

At eight o'clock Eldress Paulina and Eldress Rebecca invite us to the meeting house. It is a large two storied building, and has ample accommodations for the ministry. All the wood work inside, is painted dark

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blue. The garret is unfinished. The meeting room is in the best of order. They still retain the old fashioned seats, without backs. As they have no public meetings a change is of less consequence.

The ministry's shop is two storied, and all live up stairs. The lower rooms are for store rooms. We meet Elder James in his shop. He says he is what the negroes call a hase beans, and not aw-is beans. That is, he is not able to do, as he once did. He is obliged to exercise great care in regard to his sight. We incline to love Elder James more and more.

At 10 o'clock we go to the gathering order in company with Br. Stephen Bosso. The family is small. Elder Jacob, Stephen and the writer take dinner together. After this we have a visit with the Brethren, and then with the sisters. Walk out to see the cows. Elder Jacob does not believe so much in blood, as he does in milk. The stock was in good order, and very gentle.

The garden at this small family was as large as all the gardens in Canterbury. They are engaged to some extent in the garden seeds. We visit the Brethren's shop where we see a printing press, named, Benjamin Franklin. It had a very antiquated appearance, and for aught that we know it may have been the very iden-

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tical press that Franklin used while on earth. The printer used "balls" instead of a roller.

We return to the office of the Chh. at 2. o'clock, and find four packages of letters from home. Absorbed in the spirit of the communications we found ourselves without thought among the dear brethren and sisters of the Granite State.

In the evening we enjoyed a visit from Eldress Paulina, Eldress Rebecca, – Zachariah Burnett and Francis Pennebaker. Mer. 78° Fahr.

At ¾ of 9 we retired to rest wearied with the labors of the day. Just at that moment the sound of music was heard directly in front of the house. This was so unexpected at this hour of the night, and at a Shaker Village that it came like electricity. A gentle tap at the chamber door and Br. Stephen informs us that it was customary for the white and negro laborers to notice strangers after this manner, and that they would expect us to come down stairs. In a few minutes we were attired, and with the company. We found the office members and several of the Brethren at the door. The two violinists were white. They seemed to appreciate the interest which was manifested in their playing, and favored us with a great variety of pieces.

One of the negroes came forward to dance. He had made no change in his dress since he left the field. His time was perfect, even with all the disadvantages of heavy boots. The poor fellow worked hard and was indeed entitled to many thanks for his good will to make us welcome to the South, and initiate us into this feature of real life. The Brethren treated them to some cake and wine, which we understand is the usual accompaniment.

After they left the Office, we heard them at the dwelling house, and subsequently at the West family. They sometimes stop in front of every family, in the village. On retiring this time we found it to be ¼ p 11.

Beloved Elder George

As Elder Henry intends to leave home tomorrow to be absent three or four days for missionary duties, he requested me to copy these sheets for your perusal, which gives me pleasure. Be so kind as to accept the love of Eld. Henry, of Eld. Dorothy, their companions, and all of the brethren & sisters, the writer's included, Your Gospel Sister,

Eliza A. Stratton

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Shaker Village N. H. July 16th 1874.

Beloved Elder George,

The writer of this is 50 years old today. This is looking toward a good old age, and I hope the good will not be left out. — I have just returned from a walk of five miles & am a little weary, as I am not accustomed to such lengthy journeys of this order. —

But to the southern journey —

Thursday May 29th. Br Micajah invites us to visit his shop. He now lives at the age of 81 years in a building that he framed when he was 17 years of age. He has been one of the most active men in the place. He studied surveying and became a proficient engineer. In his shop we found a large library of excellent books. Elder Edmund Bryant comes to the office, also Zachariah Burnett a younger brother of Micajah. Here comes a youth of 17 yrs from the East family who gives his name as Edward Settles. His mother is one of the Elders in the gathering order. At eleven o'clock Stephen Boss and the writer sit down to dinner. Soon after the Ministry sisters join us & we ride to the West House or Swede family. We meet the Elders & are very affectionately welcomed to their home. We visit the family in the meeting room. There were 12 B and a few more sisters.

They all understood English much better than they could speak it. Several of them are good singers, & their swede songs were very interesting. Some of the Brethren & Sisters walk with us to the mill a half mile distant. They have no mill pond. The stream that carries the wheel comes directly from the hill side & is conducted to the wheel in a wooden trough. They say it never fails them. We pass their spring house, a small building in which they place their pans of milk. A stream of spring water runs into the building & spreads over the whole floor, making it one of the best place to keep the milk cool. The Swedes are an interesting family. And those who are left out of the great body that was gathered at Pleasant Hill, seemed to realize the blessings of a gospel home. Before returning to the Church, we ride to a cane brake about 1/4 mile beyond the family. It was, indeed, a curiosity. At this place we heard the voice of the Turtle Dove. It was a mournful cry. On the return we saw one of the birds. It has a dove like appearance, but smaller. The body is a dark drab, with black spots & the tail feathers are tipped with white. On reaching the office Eldress Polly comes out to meet us & says that the sisters have put up 100 quart cans of strawberry preserves today. At 1/2 p 8 the negroes (hired hands) who sleep in a small building near the office, commence to sing. Four men & two women form the choir

The women are hired to work in the office Kitchen. — We concluded to make them a visit & accordingly entered the house & made ourselves quite at home. The negroes called themselves Baptists. Said the whites would not let them attend meeting at the present time. After conversing awhile they return to singing. One of the company would read two lines of the hymn, then all would sing — then read two more lines & then sing again & so on through hymn after hymn, for two hours or more.

Friday May 30th. At ½ to 7 A.M. Mer at 78°. Take a walk to the Wash House to see the sisters who are engaged in preserving strawberries. This is sale work. They get 11½ dollars per doz for quart bottles. They have the same price for cherries, Ice melon & other fruits. They use one pound of sugar to one pound of berries. At 9 o'clock we walk with Br Micajah to the Kentucky river. He was an hour in advance of the time for the company to start, as he had many things to show me & to explain. The good old man directed the work on this road & it was uppermost in his mind. It was two years in building & cost them $10.000 — Length 1½ mile. The first two thirds was macadamized & the last third built by the side of Cedar creek. The wall of stone commencing at a few feet rises to over 200 ft before it reaches the river. The road was cut through solid stone by blasting. In some places the wall on one side would rise almost perpendicular for

100 ft & on the was a precipice of 100 ft or more. which makes
the carriage road on the edge or side of this mountain wall.
The carriages overtook us before we reached the river, & we
were invited to ride. At the boat landing we find several
houses, a store, a warehouse & a platform hay scales. A
school was kept in a room by the scales, the agents room —
It had 5 pupils — We saw a little negro boy at this place.
We said. Why don't you go to school. = They wont let us go
with the white boys — Do you know how to read? — No
Do you know how to write? — no — What do you know?
Nothing. — Poor little black skin, we said to ourselves.
shut out from all schools & from all learning because of color.
A steamboat lands at this place once a week. bringing goods
from Louisville. All their hard coal is brought in large barges to
this place, & then hauled in wagons to the village. Our company
was now increased to some 50 Brethren & Sisters. It is pro-
posed to cross the ferry. but the boat was on the opposite shore & the
ferryman had gone to dinner. However Abraham Culp espied
a small skiff not far distant. & it was not long before he was out
in the stream. Some of the sisters thought that Abraham
was real bad to get the boat & go off alone. But he was deaf to
all entreaties & was soon landed on the distant shore, unfastened
the large flat boat & was again crossing the stream. The deck of the
boat is level so that horses & wagons & cattle can be taken on board

To manage it against the strong current of the river, a rope is stretched from one shore to the other. Upon the rope is a large pulley. To this pulley is attached a rope which is fastened to the boat. When the boat is pushed from the shore the current tends to carry it down stream, while the attachment to the rope across the river tends to hold it still. By skillful management of the rope that fastens the boat to the pulley & proper care of the rudder the ferryman readily conveys the cargo from one side of the river to the other. See American Agriculturist for August 1873 in which is an excellent illustration. Some 20 or more crossed the river the first time under the charge of Abraham Culp & Napoleon Brown. Subsequently two carriages and another company came over. We ascend quite a steep hill & finally enter a saw mill to rest. It was a large open shed in which we found a steam engine, & some half dozen workmen. They made no objections to our freedom, but seemed rather to enjoy the novelty. The sisters sung a song & then Br Thomas McRea made a short speech. It was a pleasant impromptu. He used beautiful language & spoke very distinctly. Thomas was a chaplain in the rebel army and now suffers from the effects of physical & mental lufation. Napoleon Brown was a soldier in the Union army. Both of them have now enlisted in a spiritual warfare under the banner of the Prince of Peace. At the close of the speech, word came that the carriages had crossed the river & were waiting. Elder Benjamin Dunlavy was the driver of one team. We slowly and carefully ascend the mountain road. It is a grand ride to be on the edge of the mountain with a perpendicular wall of 50 or 100 ft on one side & a precipice of a 100 ft on the other. Reaching the summit we have one of the most romantic scenes that nature can afford. We are now 200 feet above Cedar Creek. Some 20 yrs ago a company had commenced to build a rail road through this place — but failed. We are seated at the base of the towers which they built as supports for a suspension bridge. On the opposite bank 250 ft distant are two more. On measurement we find them to be 16 by 24 ft at the base & the Brethren tell us they are 93 ft high. They were built of blocks of lime stone, laid in cement. Placed at so high an elevation they can be seen at a great distance. From this place we have one of the best views of the Kentucky river & also of the junction of the Kentucky & Dix rivers. It is generally conceded that some of the finest scenery in the state is to be seen at this place. After making all the observations that the time would afford, the company are again seated & spend a short season in singing & speaking. At 1/4 of 3 we begin to descend. On the way we stop to see the working of a corn sheller that is placed on the banks of the river. It is a long iron cylinder the cobs passing in at one end and out at the other while the corn falls directly under it. Hundreds of bushels of corn were in open bins at the road side, ready to be shelled. Not less than six hands were engaged while the machine was propelled

by two horses — two others standing by to rest. — They told us that they shelled 200 bushels each day & put it up in bags. These are piled up on the banks of the river, to be sent away when the Steam Boat comes up. All this work was performed in the hot sun; not a board to shelter either man or beast. Passing on we reach the boat. Both carriages drive on, filled with members of the company. Elder Thomas Shain age 81 or 82 yrs is present on horseback. Several foot passengers are on board. It was a large boat load & required considerable exertion to start our vessel from the shore. We were but a short time in crossing the stream, much to the relief of some who were nervously excited through fear that the horses would rush into the river, or that they themselves should be cast overboard. The carriages go directly home with the passengers, while a large company wait on the shore for their return. Elder Thomas took a sister behind him on horseback, which was a novel sight, indeed, to a New Hampshire Shaker, although perfectly familiar to them. Elder Thomas said he was raised on horseback & is now at his advanced age in the saddle every day. We all reach home at 5 o'clock, having enjoyed one of the most interesting & instructive days of recreation that life affords.

Saturday May 31st. — At 5 o'clock A.M. Mer at 50°

Br Elkanan took an early trip to the river this morning & returned with two cat fish for breakfast. This fish is the same as our horned pout, but grows much larger in the southern rivers. The Kentuckians think the meat is very nice for the table, but for us there was too much fat or blubber. Br. Micajah called early this morning to see if we had been brought right safe through after our trip of yesterday. He says, "You are mighty tired, I reckon." After breakfast have a visit with Elder James & subsequently with Eldress Paulina, and then do some writing — P.M. Brennan at the office. This is the first half day that we have had in quietness since we left home. We appreciated the blessing. — Today we receive twelve letters from home. One informs us that they planted their corn the 20th of May. The Brethren laugh at the statement. They planted the 28th of April. They frequently plow new land in February.

The Lord's Day. June 1st. We rise at 5 o'clock, breakfast 1/2 p. 6.

We have some fagot fish, caught in the Ohio river. Some of the bones resemble a bundle of fagots. Sister Jane thought they were the Red Horse or Buffalo fish. These names are evidently better understood by Kentuckians than by a New Englander. This morning a gentle cool breeze is blowing & the Mer is at 65° The trees are alive with the music of birds, only a few feet from our windows. Among the many the Turtle Dove is distinctly heard. We visit many of the Brethren & Sisters. At 1/2 p 2 P.M. attend meeting with the society. After the body had gathered into order, they commence the services with one bow. They sing one of the hymns published in the Shaker & Shakeress. Elder Benjamin then stepped forward & addressed the meeting with quite a lengthy discourse, after the manner of public meetings. They next form into ranks for exercise in the stepping manner. All unite that are able. Old men of 80 years & more down to the little boys. Persons who have just entered

the society are brought into the ranks. After singing two songs the laborers arrange for the march in the circle. After exercising two songs in this manner, they face the center & sing a slow song. At this time several persons speak. They now sing two songs for the slow march By invitation the writer accepts the privilege of speaking — Two songs are now sung for the round dance. On the last part of the tune they shuffle & do not turn their faces to the center, as is the custom in the North. Then follows two songs in the quick dance. During all these exercises the ranks are not broken. From this all move to the ranks as when the meeting commenced & the usual ceremonies of giving & sending love & speaking, as is common in the East closes the meeting. It is now 4 o'clock

Monday June 2nd. Take a walk before breakfast into the garden. Several beautiful beds attract our attention that are filled with flowers in full bloom. The gardens are very extensive & every thing is provided for the Kitchen department with a liberal hand. We cross the road & enter the horse pasture. From this we turn toward the barn where the horses & mules are feeding. We do not find so much interest manifested in horses as we had expected. They drive so far as we have seen very moderately & the horses seem to understand what is expected. Some of the Brethren are averse to the using of mules, on account of being obliged to whip them so much. Others speak favorably of them. We meet Br Zachariah Burnett who has for many years been engaged in the garden seed business & in selling brooms. He thinks they will be obliged to drop the garden seed business, as they cannot Keep up with the changes in the market. & he finds it to be a fact that the seed which is put up in the most ornamental style, will sell first.

After Breakfast we go with Br Micajah to see the sand stone of which the window sills of the stone house is made. The stone is quite hard, & obtained not far from the Village. Color light gray, but all used in the dwelling house are painted white. The cap stones are Kentucky marble. These are also painted white & at a distance look like marble.

We now visit the West family, to see the silk worms. They have now crawled into the bushes provided for them, to spin their cocoons. We learn that the worms live just four weeks & during this time are to be fed every two hours (except in the night) till they are ready to spin the cocoons. They occupy some three days in spinning. The Cocoons are then placed in the sun to kill the worms. Those reserved for use require fifteen days to change to a moth. We now take a stroll with Br Francis Pennebaker. Visit the orchards. Every thing here is done on a large scale & the apple orchards are very extensive. The trees look quite well, but would evidently do better with more care. We pass a locust tree The thorns are several inches long. If the south produces beautiful flowers, it also produces awful thorns.

P.M. We ride to the farm as the Brethren call it. Elder Benjamin, Eldress Paulina & two sisters from the family are with us. It is 4 miles from the village. We pass one gate in the Turnpike where we pay 25 cts for a two horse carriage. Following along the Turnpike the Believers own some 500 acres of the best tillage land that is to be found in the State.

Large fields of wheat & rye as well as Broom corn are in excellent condi-
tion. The Indian corn some 30 acres was cultivated by tenants on
shares. We turn from the main road into a private way called
"Wildwood" the name of the plantation. We ride for several miles
before we again come out on the pike. The road is excellent. Persons
accustomed only to roads in New Hampshire, can have but a faint
idea of a woods ride in Kentucky, or rather a pasture ride, where
the trees are so far apart as not in the least to prevent a carriage
from passing safely along the way. It is surprising to see how they
have cut off the wood & timber. The few trees now standing are either
for ornament or shade. The worst feature of this ride is being
obliged to open & shut so many gates, as we pass from field to field
& from the property of one individual to that of another. We call at
a tenants house & get a glass of water. We are waited upon by a little
negro girl who seems to well understand her business. Next call at
at the house of R.H. Jourdan. This was a few years ago the residence of a
Kentucky planter, & Elder Benjamin says it was a beautiful place.
But the slave holder has gone to the spirit land, & the slaves have
either gone the same way or asserted their freedom, & the property has
fallen into other hands. Jourdan has a distillery & rum pays better
than farming. We visit the distillery which was only a few rods distant. It
was one of the worst places that we ever saw. The sisters were sadly troubled
to pass. They were obliged to pass up a flight of stairs, and then from the
first to the last were covered with the slime of distilled grain, the floors
were no better. A chester white pig would have been ashamed of them.
But we lived through it. A large Jackass stood looking at us as we
passed, seemingly as much astonished to see us, as we were to see him.
We gave him a bunch of grass & said to him, poor fellow. We had left him
but a few minutes before he began to bray & made some of the most
singular & hideous noises that we ever heard. Perhaps to him it was
singing, as he seemed in no hurry to stop the strain, & in fact we
were rather pleased than otherwise.
We next call at the residence of Dr Cammell. Like other planters his house
is full 1/2 a mile from the pike. His residence cost $25,000. The former
proprietor of this place liberated at one time 70 slaves & paid their passage
to Liberia. Domestic troubles arose. The wife is dead, & the master is in
Florida. Instead of a $25,000 mansion he lives in a log hut with only
one window & earns his daily bread by days works. Such is life.

With this beloved Elders—accept our love. As you have so many
reporters from this place at present. I will not attempt to add.
Hope you are all well & happy.—

Your Brother

Henry.—

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Shaker Village. N.H. July 29. 1874.

Beloved Elder George,

It is Thursday morning. June 5th and I find it my duty to inform you, that we must bid adieu to the dear friends of northern Kentucky. We are called at 1/4 of 3 o'clock & at 1/4 of 4 take our last farewell of Pleasant Hill. We are now in the company of Br Abram Culp, Eldress Rebecca Ryal, Susan Murry & Lucinda Reynolds. Abram has a span of grays which he considers a little before most horses. and indeed they are worthy to be well spoken of as good travelers. The morning was quite cool & we made ourselves comfortable with shawls & handkerchiefs. The road for 22 miles, the distance we rode to take the cars was nearly all macadamized for a turnpike. We find a toll gate every five miles when we are obliged to pay 25 cts. The roads are let out to companies by the state. This company keeps the road in repair & demands toll. We reach the station at 1/4 p 8. The place has no depot & we found the ticket agent in his dwelling house some 12 or 15 rods from the Rail Road. At 1/2 p 9 we took the cars for Louisville, after bidding adieu to Abram & the sisters. Reach Louisville at 1/4 of 3 & meet Br Urban Johns at the depot waiting our arrival. We are soon on board of a street car riding to the Hotel. The car is drawn by mules. A large part of the business in the city is done by mules instead of horses. After resting a few minutes we walk out to see the rail road bridge over the Ohio river. It is one mile & fourteen feet long. We pay a fare of 10 cts for the privilege. It is considered one of the wonders of the age.

Friday June 6th. At 1/2 p 8 take the cars for Bowling Green. We had taken supper, & breakfast, & had lodging at the Hotel for which we paid $ 3.50 each. The country reminds us of the northern states. It is quite uneven & somewhat hilly. But we forget. there are no hills in Kentucky, they are knobs. The rail road company found one so formidable that they concluded to tunnel through it, and in fact we thought it the longest tunnel that we had rode through. Our attention is drawn to the forests as we rode along, & we do not observe any difference between them & the northern forests. We have heard it reported that grass grew in the woods, the same as in the pasture, but that is a mistake. We are nearing a depot. It is called Cave city, and about as inferior a place as we have seen. On the guide near us is written. Seven miles to the Mammoth Cave. It was in this place, Cave city — that Elder Giles had to pay $2 for a poor dinner — but Elder Hervey Eades writes, that he had to pay $4 for a poor dinner in Baltimore. So much for traveling.

The Kentuckians say that Bowling Green is a right smart place & does a heap of business. We reach South Union Depot at 1/2 p 2 P.M. & were met by Elder Hervey, Asa Ware, James Richardson, Eldress Betsey Smith, Melissa Minter, Eldress Nancy Moore & Mary Warren. Elder H had written to us that we should find South

Union in the woods & down in the mud. And we can testify to the truth of his statement. The road in front of the office is very muddy & the carriage wheels settle to the hubs. The people of Shaker Village N.H. would hardly know how to meet a condition like this, as they have such nice roads, most of the year. Indeed this is the land of Peacocks. Twelve beautiful birds are walking around the door yard. The Ministry visit us after supper. We then take a walk into the garden. They are very extensively engaged in the raising of Garden seeds.

We learn that the main road through the village runs East & West. The office faces the North. Directly opposite is the girls house. This has large figures 1810 painted over the front door to show that it was built in the year designated. The Dwelling House fronts the south. We retire to rest at an early hour, and now learn that our beautiful peacocks are horrid screamers. Several times during the night we were awakened out of a sound sleep first by the birds, & then by the whistle of the Steam Engine. The Rail Road track is only a few rods south of the office. Amid all this screaming & whistling, & rumbling our first night at South Union was passed amid fear & trembling.

Saturday June 7th. Before morning it was quite cool. & we found a woolen coat quite comfortable. South Union Church family abounds with trees. & the birds seem to hold them by Divine right. By 1/2 p. 3 this A.M. the air is made vocal with music. It exceeds anything that we have ever heard. Hundreds & hundreds of birds that belong to the south it would seem were holding a concert. The Peacocks, however, as good luck would have it, are quiet. — It is now 1/2 p. 6 We have just returned from breakfast. and must [illegible] with you of a Sunday breakfast in the south. Fried Chicken, Fried dried beef, Boiled eggs. Asparagus. Graham Gems. Fine flour bread. Sweet cake. Crackers. Tea. Butter, cheese, & strawberries. All this for a northerners breakfast. Elder Frederic would have delivered a longer lecture over this, than he did over one that we had provided at the Canaan family. — Mary J. Clark has charge over us, & like all other Maries is very attentive. But as we have concluded to eat to live we shall act accordingly. Dear me! It would require a stomach made of cast iron to endure all the indigestible compounds that active minded cooks are led to invent. In many places the food is very rich. & some articles are made to swim in melted butter, and in this form are about as indigestible as shingle nails.

~~P.M.~~ All the A.M. was spent in visiting the Ministry & Elders & in writing. P.M. Walk to the Cemetery. This occupies a corner section of an apple orchard. Most of the graves are kindly cared for having good stones at the head & lettered with the full name. Some graves had only pine boards. while others had no sign whatever. A flock of sheep were trespassing upon this last resting place of the dear friends. We call at the Ministry's Shop to see a beautiful Magnolia tree that stands but a few feet in front of their building. The Ministry's shop is back from the road some 30 ft. & they have the space in front

fenced off & contains several beautiful trees. The Magnolia
is in bloom. Has flowers some 5 inches in dia - perfectly white and
very fragrant. Elder H. obtained the tree in Florida. We learn that
the Dwelling House was built in 1824. The underpinning is some four
feet high and built of marble. The body of the building is of brick &
is furnished with green blinds. All the buildings in this place
are in excellent repair & so liberally surrounded with shade trees
that it gives them a fine appearance. Years ago when most of the
societies were obliged to cut down all the shade trees in the door
yard, South Union was permitted to retain those near the dwell-
ings, on account of the great heat in summer, & today they look
beautiful. Pleasant Hill at that time had some fine shade
trees but they were all sacrificed & today they mourn the sad loss.

The Lord's Day. June 8th. Rise at 1/2 p 4. After Breakfast visit at the
Meeting House with Eld Harvey. It is built of brick. The Ministry's
apartment is arranged very conveniently. Subsequently visit the
Brethren & Sisters at the Dwelling House. We find but few young persons
who are stepping forward to bear the burdens. They have some ex-
cellent singers. Visit the little girls. There are nine in the order.
Dinner hour has arrived. We have Fish, eggs, potatoes, tomatoes
Strawberries & Cream, Cake, Peach pie - peach preserve &c. &c. To have
said grace over all this would have taken some time & considerable
grace to have done it. We think Believers spend far too much
time in pandering to the appetite, & making that of more conse-
quence than the spiritual interests.

At 1/2 p 2 P.M. attend worship with the society at the Meeting House.
Services commence by singing a hymn. Elder Robinson B. Eades then
addressed the meeting. It was lengthy & like a public speaker. Eld
Harvey then read a letter. Two circles are formed for the march.
They march faster than N. H. societies but more moderate than
some societies. March two songs. Sing slow piece. Two songs for slow
march, then two for circular dance. Brethren & Sisters return to
their own divisions of the room & have a quick dance. Really we
thought the song never would end. After this two more marches
then form into ranks. Several of the B & S spoke during the meeting.
One new feature of the meeting was, that while marching in the circle, the
Elders suddenly whirled & were marching in an opposite direction
between the circles, giving out love. At first we hardly knew what was
coming as they had placed us directly in rear of the Old Elders. Others
left the ranks & marched as did the Elders. Elder Henry entered
the meeting house in his shirt sleeves. He wore a light blue vest, linen
pants & white hose. - Most of the Brethren wore linen sacks & pants -
The Sisters wore white or light stripes. It could not be expected that the
Believers of the North & South could dress exactly alike, still we see no
necessity of diverging to any great extent beyond the pattern set in
the Mount. Foolish persons among believers, like foolish persons in
the world injure themselves by tight lacing. What a pity. Some of the
Brethren wore bows or neck ties, the only use of which must be for
the ornamental. We find that the Shaker cap is quite objectionable

to many of the younger class on account of the burden in the head (?)
This may be so, but the same objections obtains in the north. The
Shaker cap is little a feather compared to the head gear of modern times,
& which probably every one will wear who throws aside the cap. The above
class finds some relief by throwing the cap back to the ears, which to those
not accustomed to the sight looks very singular indeed. We are not
able to make these styles harmonize with either good taste or refined
manners.

Monday June 9th. Here comes Br Solomon Rankin, who for many years
has stood the Elder of the Center family. He has two large sweet potatoes
fair & sound that have kept through the winter. They consider it quite a
success to preserve the potatoes as it decays rapidly under ordinary
care. They have built a house on purpose to keep it warm all winter
& the potatoes come out in the best condition. We visit their dry house
It is built on the principle of those at the north. We now take a peep
into the house where the pork is kept. It is hung on poles & had been
smoked to preserve it. This takes the place of packing in barrels. Some
20.000 lbs are put up every year. In 1872 they slaughtered 80 hogs.
This is a supply for hired help. Elder Henry once broke that South Union
used & wasted 10.000 bushels of corn each year. & by this we can easily see
how it is used. We visit the Cow barn. Charles Logan Johns is the herds-
man, assisted by Cyrus Blakely. The stock is all Durham. We found
some 33 milch cows. We asked one milker how much her cow gave,
to which she replied — "She will give two piggins full." They cut all
the hay and point of economy & as a necessity. The country is poor for
pasture, as the hot sun kills the grass roots. They are obliged some years
to feed the stock 5 & 6 months. We saw some 50 hens & chickens
making themselves very much at home & asked Jesse if that was the
poultry yard. O nay, said he, these are a few scattering ones that Logan
keeps at the barn. The cow barn was a very ordinary building & the
accommodations for the milkers not very good. We visit the Wash house
The floor is laid with stone. They have a cylinder wash mill, propelled by
one horse in a tread mill. Also the little patent rollers to squeeze the water
from the clothes. The sisters commence washing at 3 o'clock A.M. & finish
at 1/2 p 9 A.M. They iron on Tuesday. & for this they have an excellent room
& a convenient heater for the irons. The Deaconess shows us a good store
of dry goods on hand, & all kept in the neatest order. We are now shown
20 barrels of soap. We enter the Bake room. The sisters are making dried
peach turnovers. — The kneading of the dough is done with rollers. They in-
formed us that the dough did not stick to the wood, which fact we soon
learned as they used a large quantity of shortening. These little pies are
made very neatly & the sisters using great care in forming them. The
bakers are using one of the galvanized ovens, & speak in its favor. The arch
room is large & high posted. They have a good range & a large cooking
stove.

More next week — Love to all —

Henry —

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Shaker Village. N.H.

Beloved Elder George.

We are still at South Union. In the P.M. we go through the Dwelling House. Find the nurses have two rooms in this building for the sick & one for their own use. Their medicine cupboard was well supplied & in strong contrast with the one at the North family at Mt Lebanon. This family has no place fitted up especially for an infirmary. Whew!! There goes a negro. black as milk, wearing a shaker hat & riding on a mule. The mule part seems well enough but the hat is indeed out of place.

We pass through the meeting room. It is large & well lighted on two sides. They have moveable benches for seats. We next visit the dairy.— A large number of pans of milk graced the place. They use the dasher churn & operate it with a crank.

This family has only one yoke of oxen, & these they call scrubs. Tuesday June 10th. The cars pass by going north at 1/2 p 2 A.M. The peacocks are screaming. This with the whistle of the locomotive made all the music we wanted. It is 5 o'clock A.M. Here comes the cows from pasture. a beautiful herd of Durhams. & the herdsman follows in the rear on horseback. Very few people in this section take the trouble to walk. Four negroes are passing to their work, & each one has found a mule to ride. Along comes an ox team. The driver rides on a long four wheeled wagon & whips the oxen along with a leather thong & partially guides them with a rope tied to the left horn of the near ox. Baggage wagons pass with very large loads, drawn by four or six mules. The driver rides the near hind mule which is nicely equipped with saddle & bridle. He guides the team with one line, attached to the near forward mule. One thing was quite noticable in the wagons used at Pleasant Hill. All were furnished with brakes. but they are not of much use on the muddy roads of South Union.

The Elders of the North Family are at the Office — Elder John Cooper Eldress Sarah Small. & Jane Cowen. Elder John is a young man & has been with believers only some 5 or 6 years. Eldress Sarah may be 65 yrs of age. but has lived with believers from a child. At 9 o'clock Elder Lorenzo Pennfield of the East Family comes with a covered carriage to take the Ministry sisters & the writer to the East Family. We have a span of mules. The roads are very muddy & the poor creatures are obliged to walk most of the time & in fact we do not think they would incline to do otherwise on a good road. We ride around one section of their farm. a distance of several miles. By the side of the road we see large patches of cactus, growing wild. the same plant that we take pains to cultivate at the north. Eldress Betsy warned us against too much familiarity with them as they are covered with spines. some are inch long & others very minute, which produce a painful sting. They are very ugly indeed. The flower is yellow & has a resemblance to the

to the yellow rose. We brought one rogues ~~[illegible]~~ home to the Elch that had five blossoms on it. On reaching the office two young sisters who had been to the woods & to the knobs, presented us with some flowers & also several varieties of petrified buds as they call them, & other curiosities. We pass one place where the stones crop out in abundance. It bore a close resemblance to New Hampshire land. We pass one field of 60 acres of wheat & another of 30 - & other fields of 80. 90 & 100 acres — Many of them are fenced with live hedge.

But our roads, alas! they are awful!! To ride out for pleasure in this part of the country must be at a discount. The East family does not bear a very prepossessing appearance. It has however, a good dwelling house & office. The family is small. We visit with most of the sisters in the shops, before dinner We find in the Bake room a fluted roller for the kneading of pie crust, which they speak well of, they think the galvanized oven better than a brick oven.

One new feature presented itself at the dining table. A sister stood behind us with a long peacock feather fan & kept all the flies from the food, by a constant waving of the fan over the table. It was a care for the comfort of the guests that the northerners would let pass by & leave you to manage the flies as you choose. After dinner we see the little girls. They have nine in the children's order & they appeared like good, active & well ordered children. Several of them read in their little books. & promptly answered all the questions we asked. They have a schooling of five months in the fall & winter. They still retain the male teacher for the boys, but like the eastern societies will evidently change this arrangement. Although the Shaker societies are the redeeming features of the southern states, still in the case of education, as a whole they are in the rear of many of the societies of the north. Located as they are in a section of the country where every earthly blessing is lavished upon them, still they toil unceasingly from year to year in search of the treasures of this world. Really it seems that they work harder than the B & S do at the north & have less time for mental, moral, or spiritual cultivation. This being the case where is the advantage of a residence in a southern clime. If to obtain a milder winter, that indeed is but poor compensation. One of the singular features of this country is the subterranean caverns. The Mammoth Cave heads the list. On the Believers land are several noted caves, where one goes down into the earth 20 or 30 ft and there finds himself in a large underground room. The writer visited three of these caves with the Brethren. The opening to one was like a well — the entrance being about 3 ft across. We reach the floor of the cave some 20 ft down by means of a ladder. By the aid of a lantern & a candle we could make our explorations. The walls overhead were of stone as were the sides of the rooms. The air produced rather a nauseating effect. & we were glad to reach the surface

The next cave was entered first by steps made for that purpose & then on the inclined plane, as nature left it. 30 ft below the surface and we find a large stream of water roaring & dashing over the rocks with the fury of a freshet. This same stream 1/2 mile distant may be seen making its way on the surface of the land for a 1/4 or 1/2 miles & then lost again under ground. In the fields we find "sink holes" Large hollows scooped out some 10 or 20 ft across at the top - In these they always find water, & it rises & falls with the streams that are found in the caves. We visit a sulphur spring. It was at one time fitted up for visitors, & has a flight of wooden steps leading to the bottom. Down these steps the simple go to get health by drinking water impregnated with sulphur. Our stomachs, however had not been educated to the taste nor our nostrils to the scent, & we soon bid adieu to the place. One day we rode to Black lick creek where the water boils up from the earth & forms the creek of the above name. In many instances the brooks & creeks have the queer freak of running awhile on the surface & then passing below the surface are lost for several rods when they again appear.

In the eve. we have a conference with the Ch'h family on the subject of reading & singing. The B & S have given but a slight attention to the study of music as a science. The round notes have not been introduced. Instrumental music is only talked of - The younger part of the family manifest a willingness to learn, & a willing mind is 1/4 of the battle gained. The older B & S. understanding the value of an education, are alike interested in the prosperity of those who are young that they may be an honor to their gospel friends.

Wednesday June 11th. Last night the little girls drove away all the peacocks from near the office, so that we had a peaceful rest. It is quite cool & woolen garments are comfortable. Mud abounds in the streets. It exceeds all previous imaginations of the mind on this subject. The Believers have excellent stone walks & one of flag stone is laid from the Ch'h to the East family, a distance of quarter of a mile. By the side of this walk is a row of maple trees some 30 years old. It is one of the ornamental features of the village. We are writing a letter. Br Urban Johns steps into the room & says. "You are not writing about old South Union are you?" We told him that we thought of writing a few words — "Well" says he "we are not of much account no more I reckon." Br Urban says the society have lost $170.000 but have not as yet suffered. Some of this money has since been recovered. Here comes a drove of hogs. They are marked like the sheep of the north. They belong to the neighbors & are in search of a living. They exercise great liberty & occupy the highway - & the pastures & often the door yards. We visit the grist mill. It has three run of stone. They buy wheat & put up flour in barrels for the market. The mill is of brick & cost $18,000 - It is not quite 1/4 of a mile from the office. As the water in the pond is not reliable, they have a steam engine to use when the water fails. Returning to the office we pass through the hen yard. Some years they raise 1800 chickens - all white Brahmas - Fried chicken is no rarity in South Union.

Thursday June 12th. A carriage is passing loaded with household goods & one of the sisters says — There goes a man with his plunder.
To day visit several caves, but will not repeat. It seems that a few feet below the surface Kentucky is a bed of rocks. As they are of lime stone a passage may be easily made through them. We pass by a place formerly used for a "fountain ground" The fences & stone have been removed Pine trees had been planted in a square which marks the boundary, Another row was placed inside of these in a circle. All the trees are in nice order. We are shown where the Chh are having a pond made. It was in a natural basin & already the water covered about 1/4 of an acre. One hundred or more hogs were turned into the pasture & as many ears of corn as there was hogs were thrown into the water every day. The hogs in their rush after the corn made the place a perfect mortar bed. This is followed for weeks till the ground is so compacted that it will hold water like a basin. In the P.M. visit the West Lot or West Family — One brother James Richardson & 10 with some 10 sisters from the family. The little boys were neatly dressed & conducted themselves in a very becoming manner. We now arrange for a pleasure ride Br. Asa Ware. Eldress Melissa Minton & Nancy E. with the writer form the company. We have a covered carriage & a span of mules. Asa has a stick a trifle smaller than a broom handle which answers for whip & goad stick. We drive to the village of Auburn 4 miles distant. Believers own some 500 acres of land near this place. Asa guided us through all perils. We thought we had seen rough roads in the north, but really we never passed over such fearful roads as these. The wheels would frequently sink to the hub in the mud & then it would be over a section for several rods. like riding over a New Hampshire pasture, again the roads would be cut down one side & the carriage would reel first to the right & then to the left, till we despaired of being able to sit upright. It is only a wonder that with such a ride over such miserable roads & through the woods that we did not ruin the carriage & break our necks. The sisters stood it remarkably, but by no means in silence. Several times they thought we should all be thrown out. and had any one listened they might have thought that a class was exercising in the vocal drill. We never experienced such a ride before & never expect to again. Our driver, all this time, sat as unconcerned as though he had been by the fire side. We must add that in South Western Kentucky there is no care whatever taken of the roads — In some places there would be large holes directly in the center of the road where the hogs had wallowed & carried off the dirt, & the pleasure may be imagined, when the carriage drops into such a place, which they frequently do. In other places the road for rods would be filled with lime stone boulders, varying from the size of six inches to one foot & a half square & perhaps larger, lying promiscuously the whole width of the road. Just think of a carriage load out for pleasure while passing over this place. We reach home at 6 o'clock. right glad that our lives were spared. —

Farewell
Love to all
Henry —

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Copied by request of Elder Henry C. Blinn, who is absent with two brethren & four sisters, attending a Shaker Meeting at Bradford N.H. Thirty miles distant. Left Aug. 8th 1874.

Emeline L. Kimball.

4th Friday, June 13th.

Visit the north family or novitiate order. Elder John Cooper, Eldress Sarah Small and Jane Cowen. John Perryman is the trustee. Elder Robinson and Eldress Nancy bear us company. As they came for us in a carriage we continue our ride nearly a mile beyond the family to an elevated piece of land called the knob. Our journey was through the mud, through a creek, through the woods and over a fearfully rough road. Our driver, Charles Patterson, managed his horses with perfect ease, while the fears seemed to be on our side. We had obtained our fill of Kentucky rides yesterday. On reaching the top of the knob, we spend awhile in searching for shells and other specimens of curiosity. Another two-horse carriage containing two brethren and four sisters is on the way to meet us. We have now quite a company on the mountain. Elder John Cooper, Elder Robinson, Eades and the writer, make quite a little tour of observation. On the highest point of land some one has built a stone pillar some 5 ft. high as an observatory. We all climb to the top of this and obtain a fine prospect of the surrounding country. After spending about an hour in this place we leave for the North family. After dinner we take a walk into the garden with Elder John, and at two P. M. have a meeting with the family. At 3 P. M. we returned to the Office at the church. A beautiful magnolia has been placed on our table to day.

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Saturday June 14th.

We awake this morning to find it raining. Indeed it pours. We hear the sound of thunder in the distance, but nothing unpleasant. Last night the peacocks made good use of their vocal organs. Some think they scream more intensely when it thunders. Make a visit to the school room. This place is appropriated to the girls. The teacher's desk was a nice piece of furniture. The desks were packed on one side of the room, where they remain till the school commences. The books were well kept, and at present carefully arranged in the cupboard. Guyots' Geography, Wilson's 5th Reader, Union Reader, and Ray's Arithmetic were among the books. The room was provided with one small black-board. The boys have a school room in another building. The laws of Kentucky oblige them to have a term of 5 months for schooling. The boys and girls both commence their school at the same time.

We visit the family Deaconesses' professions at 1/2 p. 3. Frances Carey is the first sister in that order. Every thing under her charge is kept in the best manner. The rooms were well fitted up for the business and a blessing evidently rests upon her faithfulness.

The Ministry all come to the office in the evening.

The Lord's Day. June 15th.

The first record of the morning is the death of Sally Rice - age 67 years, who passed from life in this world last night. The funeral will be on Monday at 10 o'clock. The corpse is placed in the

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meeting room till the time of the funeral when it will be removed into the hall. As we had occasion to call at the dwelling house, we step in to see the departed. The same order is adopted as is customary in the north. The coffin is made of white walnut or as we say of oilnut wood and finished with linseed oil. The funeral services at this place are about the same as at Pleasant Hill. See page 134.

Elder Lorenzo - Richard Quimby, Reuben Wise and James Richardson call at the office, and we have a very pleasant season of conversation. At 1/2 p. 8 A.M. we accompany Elder Hervey to the meeting house and hold conference with the Ministry till 10 o'clock. Have a society meeting at 1/2 p 2 P.M. We wear the new suit of linen coat and pants which were made the past week. It seemed like one of the new things to dress in white to attend church.

At the commencement of the services they make one bow. Sing a hymn. Elder Hervey addressed the meeting. Then exercise two songs in the common march, two in the slow march, sing an extra song. Elder Robinson speaks. Sings a quick song and keep the circle. All are now requested to be seated, Sing two songs. By invitation the writer addressed the meeting. At the close of the meeting we return to the Office. At 4 o'clock we attend a union meeting with the Ministry and Elders at the Dwelling House. As the weather is quite warm it is thought advisable to bury the corpse at 1/2 p 4 which duty is attended to by some four or five brethren and then at 1/2 p 7 to hold the funeral.

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Monday, June 16th.

The little girls drove off the peacocks last evening which proved very satisfactory to us. The negroes, however, wakened us about midnight, as they returned from a dance. Although this was much better than some nights, still the negroes, the peacocks and the cars forbid our sleeping too soundly.

This morning we rise at 1/2 p 3, take breakfast at 1/2 past 4, and then in company with Br. James Richardson, Eldress Melissa Minter, Mary J. Clark and Lucy Shackleford, we leave for the Depot at Woodburn. At 5 o'clock we bid adieu to the Beloved Ministry and Elders, and kind gospel friends at South Union. Our visit has been most satisfactory. We met with a welcome feeling from every one. The privilege will long be remembered as one among the choicest of this life. South Union is beautifully located in the great valley of the South West. The land, however, is not good for grass, as the hot summer sun kills the roots. Corn and wheat and rye afford good crops. Garden seeds are extensively cultivated, and are a great source of profit. The fruit preserve business also affords quite a branch of business for the Market. This year they suffer in the fruit crop, as the early frost killed the blossoms on the vines and on the trees. The long continued rains have also injured their seed garden several hundred dollars.

Elder Henry.

To be continued

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1 st

Continued from, Monday, June 16 th.

The roads from the Shaker Village to the Depot are like all other southern Kentucky roads, allowed the privilege of remaining unmolested. The result is they are in a miserable condition and hardly suitable for man or beast. We have some 3/4 of an hour at the Depot. Two brethren from the east family were in a buggy & bound for the same place. We found Br. James and the sisters very kind and attentive and we had a great cross to lose their company.

Again on board the cars and homeward bound. Br Jackson Mc. guin accompanies us as far as Bowling Green. We had contemplated reaching Cincinnatti at an early hour on the day following, but on reaching Rolling Fork river, we found the stream had been visited by a freshet, and one section of the Rail road bridge had been carried away. However, this was not as bad as it might have been, All now left the cars and marched to the bank of the river, where we were obliged to wait, till our turn came to be taken across. Two small skiff boats were all that the place afforded, and they took at each trip only five persons. The passage was dangerous as a large amount of drift wood was passing down the stream. As ill luck would have it, a heavy thunder shower came up while we were waiting on the bank of the river. Many a nice garment was soiled and perhaps ruined at this place. It required two hours before every thing was was and the cars again ready to start. This delay brought us so late

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to Louisville that we were obliged to stop over night, at the hotel instead of taking the boat as we had contemplated.

Tuesday, June 17th.

Leave Louisville at 6 o'clock A.M., having paid $3.50 at the Hotel for supper, lodging and breakfast, and then paid the porter 50 cts. for telling a lie. He gave us to understand that our trunk would be all right when it reached the cars, but the baggage man who took the trunk to the Depot demanded of us 25 cts more and then said the porter deceived us. The lie may have been cheap after all. We have bought printed lies and paid dearly for them, but in that case we had the paper to sell again.

We reach Cincinnatti at 1/4 of 10 A.M., a distance of 110 miles. Find Elder Charles Clapp at the Walnut Street Hotel, kept by Davis. Elder Charles accompanies us about the city, as we cannot leave till 4 o'clock P.M. We now take the Little Miami R.R. for South Lebanon. We pass through a very fertile section of country and withal rather mountainous. At South Lebanon we take the omnibus for Lebanon a distance of four miles. The carriage was densely packed inside and out. The road however was quite good and for the greater part of the way was well macadamized. At Lebanon we met Ithmar Johnson with a carriage to convey us to the Shaker Village, a distance of 4 miles farther. We have a nice little one horse carriage, in which we are well accommodated. Reach Union Village at 1/4 past 7 P.M. Elder Amos Parkhurst soon came to the Office

to us. The other members of the Ministry's order had gone to North Union. After supper Elder Oliver Hampton came to the office. On the journey of to day we have passed through a beautiful farming country. The large fields of clover in which the well to do farmers have turned either their cows or hogs is more than New England farmers can often have the pleasure of seeing. The pastures, and the grass land by the road side are covered with white clover. It would seem that this might be denominated the home of the honey bee, and with all this abundance bee keepers can have no need of introducing the alsike clover. If farmers in this country allow themselves to complain, they certainly would find fault if they lived in the garden of Eden.

Wednesday, June 18th.

Several of the brethren call after breakfast for a short visit. We then accompany Elder Oliver to the Dwelling House. It was built in 1844. It is three stories high, built of brick. The main body of the building is very large and to this is added an ell of the same height, containing the dining room on the first floor, the meeting room on the second, and the dwelling rooms on the third. With this the building is in the form of a T. The rooms were neatly arranged and well furnished. Every thing is substantial and plain. The kitchen and bake room apartments lack in many of the conveniences that should be found in such places. The house is without blinds, although we should think they would be much needed in the summer. We visit the Laundry. This is new

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They have an upright steam engine of five horse power. The clothes are boiled with steam. The wash-mills are oval and the dashing of the clothes as it revolves, is said to take out the dirt wonderfully. Hot and cold water run into the wash tubs or boxes. The clothes are taken from the wash tubs in nets and by steam power, and then deposited in the rinsing tubs. Rubber rollers or wringers are attached to the side of the rinsing box. These are operated by steam power. The clothes pass from the first rinsing water, through the rollers into the second box of water and from this through another pair of rollers into the baskets, which is to take them aloft to the dryingroom. The steam engine is made to do nearly all the work. The arrangement of this department were the best that we had seen. Every thing was calculated to make the work light. The engineer, Francis Rodrick, is a Spaniard, but has lived with Believers for several years. He repeated the Lord's Prayer in Spanish. Francis invited us to see his wood shed and tool room. Every stick of wood was exact in its place, and the face of the pile as true as if laid by a strait edge. His little work shop exhibited the same care. In this our good Spanish brother was a pratical preacher. We pass through the dairy. They are abundantly supplied with milk from some 30 cows. A rail-way is made from the dairy to the barn and the car carries a large can, into which they strain the milk as they bring it from the cows instead of carrying it to the dairy for that purpose.

We visit the Infirmary. The accommodations are quite good, although limited for such a large and wealthy family.

The medicine cupboard was of moderate size, but large enough to contain the usual variety of poisons found in such places.
Sister Sarah J. Baty officiated as nurse.
After dinner visit the school room which is in the upper part of a two story building. The room was large enough to accommodate forty or fifty pupils. The desks are arranged in three rows and large enough for two pupils each. The room was well supplied with black boards and mural maps. It was also provided with a convenient desk for the teacher, which was placed on a raised platform of two steps.
"The children are liberally supplied with books. The school term commences early in the fall and continues for six months. Boys and girls and the neighbors children are all taught in the same place and at the same time.
"This has been the practice for several years past, and the Elder, Oliver says they have no trouble.

We now walk to the Grist mill some 3/4 of a mile, N.W. of their dwellings. They have an excellent water power, which does not fail during the year. The pond covers some 40 acres. Only two run of stone. A hired man has charge of the business. From this place we walked through the woods a circuit of nearly a mile, before we reach home. It was extremely hot, and the walk proved rather severe. A letter has to be written and sent home. At 1/2 p. 7 the family attended a singing meeting. Elder Oliver teaches the Shaker notes, and is not as yet willing to adopt the round ones. They have allowed the introduction of instrumental music. Some of the singers, however,

are much in favor of it. We found that instruments of music were in use, and quite publicly, although not strictly in order. In this chh. family we are told that there are 20 persons over 70 years of age.

Thursday, June 19 th.

The morning is quite warm. At present there are no hired men employed by the church family. Instead of hiring men, they rent out their farms on shares. This arrangement relieves them from a great burden. The old peacock is perched on the chimney of the dwelling house and is screaming lustily. It may be music to him, but does not bear exactly that relation to me.

Elder Amos, Elder Cephas and Elder Oliver call at the office. At 9 o'clock we accompany Elder Cephas to the South family. The other Elders are Daniel Miller, Eldress Emily Hampton and Emily Robinson. After a short visit at this place, Elder Cephas takes a span of horses and a covered carriage and we ride out to see the country. We pass one field of an 100 acres of corn, and nearly opposite is another field of 100 acres. In this section one can see the most beautiful clover fields. It is considered better land for farming than that at South Union. Some of these clover fields are used as enclosures for hogs, and we are informed that they thrive on the red clover. All this western country abounds with hogs. They are to be seen by droves—and scores of them are running at large in the highway.

The Center or Church family keep 100 and the South family 151.

Elder Cephas calls our attention to the wood lots. The trees are decaying quite rapidly. The South family has set a peach orchard of some twenty

six acres at a cost of $ 2001. They are also engaged in the business of raising colts, and have invested $ 3001.

On our return to the house we visit the laundry which is arranged as that of the church. The ironing room was in a small unfinished apartment and not furnished with many conveniences. They had a building fitted up in excellent order for an Infirmary. At present however it has no occupant. The sisters accommodations in the kitchen and Bake room were only medium. In the P.M. a company is formed to go to Lebanon a distance of 4 miles. Elder Cephas, Elder Oliver Eldress Emily and several others. (Daniel Miller, Joseph Long, Joseph Lee, Persus Hoag Josephine Deming.) The road was macadamized the whole distance. Lebanon is a village of some 3000 persons, has several stores a Hotel, an academy &c. &c. We visit a music store, & see the agent for the New England organ company. These he considered superior to the Mason and Hamlin or to the Smith organ. The price was very reasonable but as yet Elder Oliver had not received the liberty to introduce the instrument into the family. We reach home at ½ p. 5. This ride gave us an excellent view of the country, and we saw some of the best land for corn & wheat.

The Elders of the church are Elder Oliver C. Hampton, David Parkhaust Eldress Elizabeth Farr, and Mary Ann Holland.

The Trustees are Peter Boyd and David Parkhaust. The stock in this family is considered to have depreciated some $4000 within a few years.

"The buildings need painting very much, and many of them need repairing. We had anticipated seeing the society of Union Village

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in the neatest of order. "The western and Southern Shakers sadly neglect the inside of their buildings. There was a great lack of that neatness which characterizes the Believers of Mt. Lebanon.

In this society they own some 5000 acres of land 1/2 being well wooded. "They have at present 250 members. "The water in this place is strongly impregnated with lime, but the people think it to be excellent for drinking. The style of cooking is much plainer than at the South, but we find that they use tea and coffee three times each day. Tobacco chewing is common. "The library in the church and South family are each of some 250 volumes. Many of these, however, are trifling books, such as are to be found in most Shaker families.

Among the sisters west and South, we find a growing dislike to the wearing of the cap. Some throw it back an inch, while others throw the front edge back to the ears, even in public meetings.

Some of these features seemed like the old adage, "Penny wise and pound foolish". To be a Shaker and only comply with a part of their discipline, or in a silly manner attempt to ape the world, seems very foolish indeed.

"This evening the family meet at the school house, but the writer does not attend, for the simple reason that he was not invited. We understand that they have met to organize.

Closing of Thursday's journal.

Elder Henry."

By Emeline

Shaker Village N.H. June. 17. 1874.

Beloved Elder George.

We – a company of four Brethren & four sisters returned from our mission to Bradford on Monday – We were very cordially rec'd. Held one meeting Sat. eve. and three meetings Sabbath day. All were well attended and the best of attention given. The meeting was composed of members of all denominations. When the ministers from Mt. Lebanon, in the days of Mother Ann, came into the State of New Hampshire, they often preached in Bradford & some of the best members of our society were gathered from this place, but nearly a hundred years have passed away before the Shakers could find time to spare to renew the visit. Perhaps in years to come a third visit may be made to the place. We will now return to our southern journey.

We left our notes the 22nd of May, when we reached Baltimore, having fasted all day –

It was now 1/4 p 4 & we began to realize that hunger had overtaken us. We left the car to make observations but soon learned that the depot was a large open shed & the stores & saloons too distant to reach. We sat down & made up our minds to pass the night without tea or toast, but very reluctantly. But as the good old Prophet was not not forgotten while in the wilderness, but had the ravens to bring him food, neither were we forgotten while imprisoned in those cars, for the raven brought us food, & if not just like what Elijah had, it might have been full as good. A few moments before the train starts a negro enters, and cries out – Fried oysters & pickles & crackers, nicely put up in a

box. for only 25 cts. Now this fellow was a black as any northern crow. & for aught we knew he was a raven. It really seemed like a hard chance, but we ventured, in spite of pain & indigestion, & a sleepless night. The raven passed us a box - In it we found six large oysters fried in meal, one fourth of a very small pickle & eight diminutive crackers. We said to ourselves, well this is a heathenish supper & fit only for a digger indian, However, we ate in faith, believing. —

Night came along, & darkness covered the earth. Sight seeing was cut off & after a long & tiresome day we concluded to rest from all labor. Our bed was a nice matrass, two sheets, a blanket & two pillows. The rumbling of the car wheels, the whistling of the engine, the shaking & sudden motions in stopping & starting are hard to reconcile with peaceful slumbers. Wearied through travel & want of rest poor tired nature, however, will assert its rights & we were eventually lost in sleep, despite all fears of accidents.

May 23rd. "We aint dead yet." At 9 oclock we stop for breakfast at Parkersburg. This cost us 75 cts.

Those who have seen only the rivers & streams of the north can have but a faint idea of the great change west & south. After leaving Philadelphia all the rivers are muddy, the extreme opposite from the clear streams of New England. We are today in the old Virginia State. Most of the roads within sight of the cars are in a miserable condition. They ford the streams instead of building bridges. Many of the houses are built of logs, with stone or wooden chimneys, plastered with mud & built outside of the house.

At Chillicothe a man saluted us - Well Br. are thee going to the spiritual convention at Cincinnati. He evidently was trying to talk Quaker, supposing us to be of that profession & consequently made two mistakes, one in his language & the other in the person whom he addressed.

May 24th. Last night we reached Cincinnati at 5 o'clock, after a ride of nearly 700 miles without rest. This morning we are to breakfast at 1/4 p. 5 & take the cars at 6 o'clock. The cooks were dreadfully in the rear. The fare limited & of poor quality. We met here a Kentuckian who lived 7 miles beyond the Pleasant Hill Shakers. He would bear us company & soon gave us information how to save $1.25 on the fare by buying a ticket for 7 miles farther than we intended to go. This including car & stage fare reduced the price, from what it would have been to have bought the tickets separately. At last we have reached the state of Kentucky, and soon began to see that farming in Kentucky & farming in New Hampshire were two very different things. We pass fields after fields of wheat & rye & corn of more than an hundred acres each. One apple orchard occupied a lot of an hundred acres. By the side of this northern farmers were at work in a nut shell. Pastures of 70 & 80 & more acres were stocked with a few horses or mules & the grass & clover as good as the best mowing fields of the north. Corn was up ready for the first hoeing. Hundreds & hundreds of this beautiful land now lies idle as there is "no man found to till the ground." We do not wonder that the Southern Shakers have thought strange that we could be so attached to the rocks & mountains of New Hampshire, while so much of the best land in the earth lies idle. The negroes are lazy & shiftless & will not work, & many of the whites are probably no better. The negroes prefer to gather around the villages, & catch a penny by doing chores, & trifling jobs. We pass through one village of negroes. The houses are all one story high and placed in about as much order as a lot of chips would be if thrown from a basket. Log houses are scattered all through the country. They are the rudest specimens of dwellings that we ever saw. How human beings can content themselves to live in hovels, is really a wonder. We must notice the depots. We thought the little open sheds in Virginia were sufficiently simple as many of them had only a bench for the accommodation of travelers.

But the depots of Kentucky are miserable apologies for dwellings. Most of them are unpainted, while many have the boards torn off or the roof broken down & perhaps the plat form hardly safe for a person to walk on. One of the stopping places was the store of a trader, but his wares were hid from the eyes of the prudent. One was the shop of a U.S. officer, as it was painted over his door, that he was a U.S. guager. In some of the large villages, they had erected respectable depots, but these were exceptions to the general rule. We leave the cars at Nicholasville & take the stage. At one of the villages where the cars stopped, the conductor entered the car & locked the door after him. It was a new feature & we hardly knew the reason. We said to him, Why lock the door, do you mean to keep us in? No! said he, I lock it to keep the niggers out!! Whites & blacks cannot yet ride peacefully in the same car. Well our coach had two horses, slow & sure. Rail Road accidents were now at an end & we congratulated ourselves upon the safe termination of so long a journey. After riding 3/4 of a mile the stage stops & passengers get their dinner. The first introduction to the place was not very inviting. It had a little of the Nasby order of life, and drinking seemed to be the order of the day. We afterwards found a parlor, which was handsomely carpeted, the walls were ornamented with pictures & the room contained one of the largest of pianos. We enter the dining hall. It had eight tables & would accommodate 6 to a table. Everything was neat & well arranged. All the cooks & waiters were negroes & knew well their business. We had no bill of fare, but the food was brought in in small dishes & placed by the side of our plate. We write from memory the order of the dishes. Fresh fish, broiled veal, cold ham, Potatoes - Asparagus, Radishes, Tomato soup, Onions - Lettuce, Hulled corn, Bread & butter, Blueberry pie, Cake - Cherry sauce. In fact it was the most liberal dinner that we had seen in our journey.

Yesterday we paid 75 cts for a mere lunch & today only 50 cts for a most sumptuous dinner. We now began to conclude that Kentucky was not so bad a place after all. Once more all aboard & we number 4 passengers. Mer at 93° The coachman drove slowly, using the break far more than was agreeable. We rode on enjoying some of the finest wild scenery of the country. It was seen & exhibited on a grand scale. This section of the state was diversified with bluffs & deep gorges. The banks of the river were formed of a perpendicular wall of stone some 200 feet in height. We were now within 2½ miles of the Shaker Village. Suddenly a change came over us as we espied a brother & three sisters standing by the side of the road. They had left home to meet the expected Br. from the hills of N.H. We bid farewell to the stage to keep company with nearer & dearer friends — Henry Fay — Eldress Paulina Bryant — Eldress Rebecca Ryal & Julia Carpenter. This proved to be a very agreeable & happy surprise & we rode to the Village with a great deal of satisfaction. — Elder James Rankin met us soon after we reached the office & made us welcome to Pleasant Hill. He is 81 years of age.

The Ministry are	James Rankin
	Paulina Bryant & Rebecca Ryal
" Elders of the Church	Benjamin B. Dunlavy — Edmund Bryant
	Polly Seaans — Eliza Carpenter
" " " " East House	Thomas Shain, Stephen Bosso
	Serene Coughton, Polly Rupe
" " " " West "	Francis Runneballer
	Lucinda Shain — Susan Boston
" " " Gathering Order	Jacob Culp
	Betsy Spaulding — Mary Settles.
" " " West Lot	Andrew Bloomburg — Lars Erickson
	Elener Hatfield — Betty Bundy —

Trustees of the Chh — B. B. Dunlavy — Elkannon Scott
Patsy Gregory — Jane Sutton
Lucinda Reynolds.

After the first introduction we were privileged to perform the needed ablutions, as a journey of nearly a thousand miles in the cars had wrought a work in clothes & person. We had as the Kentuckians say — A heap of dirty clothes. Br Elkannon is upwards of 60 years of age, but still active in body & pleasant in spirit. He does much of the business at the office. Elder Edmund Bryant is a brother to Eldress Paulina. He is 85 years of age. Was in the Ministry's order for several years. & now resides in the Elders order. He has manifested a deep interest in the fruit culture. Br Micajah Burnett comes over to the office. He is 81 years of age. He has been one of the most active men in Pleasant Hill. We shall have occasion to speak of these different persons several times before we close our notes. This introduction to Pleasant Hill was one of gospel love & affection & we retired to rest with a grateful heart.

Lord's Day. May 23th. Like all Sabbaths in Shaker Villages a profound stillness prevails. We rise at 5 o'clock & Breakfast at 1/2 p 6. At 9 o'clock accompany Elder Benjamin to the "Center House", to visit the Brethren. After this we the sisters & little girls. This occupied the time till near noon. We noticed one very pleasant feature in the family, conspicuous above many other excellencies. Nearly every person in speaking, makes the visitor kindly welcome to Pleasant Hill.

At 1/2 p 2 P.M. The society assemble in the meeting house They came from five families and formed a powerful body of worshipers. Some over 200 persons were present.

The meeting was opened by singing a hymn. Elder Benjamin then spoke of the object of the meeting & exhorted all to be free, & extended a welcome to the visitors. Elder James then addressed the meeting. Labor two songs in the stepping manner. All were engaged, Old & young, & they labored with a zeal. Then form two circles for the march. They step quicker & shorter than the believers of the eastern states. All face the center & sing an extra song. Then slow march. The Brethren & Sisters then move to their respective sides of the room & we have two quick songs. This was an eastern step & we felt ourselves at home. Following there were several slow marches. They m in a body to the north side of the room, then all turned & marched to the south side & thus continuing till the song closes. Elder James spoke several times during the meeting, as did Elder Benjamin. Several of the B & S also spoke, and the season was to the writer one of deep interest & a gospel gift. Elder Benjamin stood at the head of the singing class through the whole meeting.

May 26th. Visit the wash house. They use two cylinder mills which are propelled by horse power. The accommodations for washing are rather antiquated which the sisters seemed to understand, & wanted them made better. They thought they were about 100 yrs behind the northern Shakers. This perhaps did better for them to say than for others. They press the water from the clothes or use the patent wringers. The road by Pleasant Hill runs East & West. The wash house is on the north side of the road & but a few rods back of the center house. We pass through the Ministry's Kitchen, Family Kitchen & Bake room. The Bakers were making bread. They bake hot fine flour

biscuits for each meal. The sisters say the Brethren will have them, but that sounds a little weak. One thing is certain, if the sisters did not make them, the brethren could not eat them. The bakers have a stone table on which to roll their pie crust. They like it very much. They have tea & coffee for table drink. Elder Frederick's spirit of reform in dietetics has made but a slight inroad into the customs of this society. In the cellar we saw some of the stores for the family. Sister Julia Carpenter the Deaconess went with us. They called our attention to six barrels of lard, which came from their beef. It was as soft as summer butter. Several barrels of sugar were opened for use. Julia told Elder Benj, that she wanted still more sugar & would do with less meat. He rather thought that after she had used the sugar, she would then want the meat. Jars of preserves & canned fruit were in abundance. Honey boxes were full of honey of last year & the bees are now making new. White clover is in bloom & some of the colonies have swarmed three times.

In the P.M. visit the East Family — Visit the Br & Sisters — & then visit the bee house. They have some 15 to 20 hives Italians predominate. Their stores & store house is like that at the center house. One old cherry tree at this place afforded them 175 one quart bottles of preserves last year. The Ch'h family — The East family & West Family are all under one set of trustees.

Will write again in a few days — Have rec'd a letter from Elder Thomas. Thank him kindly — Also one from Emeline. —

In gospel love

Henry —

Shaker Village N.H. Aug. 27. 1874.

Beloved Elder George.

I am once more in a writing condition so must write you another letter.

Friday. June. 20th. We find that the people of Union Village are friends to shade trees. The street runs north & South through the place & for a long distance, maple trees & a few other kinds are set out by the side of the road. Young trees are also arranged in & around the door yard. For the next generation the place will be much more beautiful. The walks in the Ch'h family passing from building to building are mostly of wood & while some are in excellent repair, others are in a very poor condition.
The building now occupied as the sisters' shop, was formerly used as the dwelling house. It is of brick & whitewashed. The main body is some 30 X 40 ft & two stories high. An ell runs from this 70 ft long & two stories high. The new dwelling house was built in 1844. The office is a large two storied frame building & painted green. The meeting house is a large ~~two storied building~~ & has wooden shutters on both lofts.

At 10 o'clock walk to the second family with Elder Oliver Hampton. The Elders of this place are Amos Babbitt, Charles Clapp. Amey Slater & Julia Dove. We have a short visit with Br Richard Pelham who is quite feeble. We visit with the Brethren & Sisters, and then with the little girls. We ride to an out farm some six miles distant. It contains 160 acres. It is let out to the world who manage it on shares. At 7 o'clock attend with the Lyceum class at the school house. The room was filled with members of different families & of all ages. Elder Oliver conducted the class. Reading, speaking & singing from some 25 pupils made a meeting of about two hours. It was very interesting & must be the means of doing much good.

Saturday June 21st. At 9 o'clock visit the meeting house with Elder Amos Parkhurst. The upper part of the building is finished with cherry & oiled. It presents a very dark appearance and at first we thought it was painted red. Everything about the building was in the best of order & gave evidence of careful hands. We call at the Ministry's shop. The rooms are quite small & the accommodations limited. Elder William Reynolds has another shop where he works at the business of tin making or mending, and also at dentistry. Shade trees are placed in the rear of these buildings.

At 10 o'clock we accompany Br David Parkhurst to the gathering order. We go leisurely along with our old horse & still older chaise, interesting ourselves in conversation. At the gathering order we find the Elders to be. Isaac Beals. James Yarrington — Louisa Farnum

and Polly McLain. We have a meeting with the family. Elder Isaac could not speak much in favor of the missionary work. He had not been very successful. The buildings in this family are in good repair & the farm under good cultivation.

The Lord's Day. June 22nd.

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We have the cheering signs of a fair day, so much to be desired when one is among friends & so far from home. The breakfast hour arrives & the table is spread after the manner of the believers of the east. Public meeting commences at 10 o'clock. Some 200 hundred spectators are present. Elder Oliver guides the meeting. He reads a hymn. We were much interested in the singing. It is the gift of care & study. At the close of each verse they made a rest, the length of a semibreve. While exercising in the march, the singers made rests, of the length of a minim at the close of each half of the song. Several of the Elders speak while we are in the circle. We march two songs—sing an extra song—then had two slow marches. We now take our seats. The same old style benches of an hundred years ago. Elder Oliver although one of the best of public speakers had wished that the writer should officiate in that duty today. Excuses were at a discount & he accordingly introduces the writer to the audience as "Elder Henry C. Blinn of Canterbury N.H. who is with us on a visit & is expected to address the meeting." The best of attention was given. At the close of the speaking, they sung a hymn, and the new feature in this was that the Brethren would sing one verse alone & then the sisters would sing one alone, while the last verse was sung by the whole choir.

P.M. Attend singing meeting with the Church at 1/2 p. 2. Elder Oliver directed the class. The lessons were written on a blackboard. They still use the shaker notes & indulge in a strong protest against the black notes. (Since that date they have introduced musical instruments and adopted the black notes—this is good news) This eve the family do not have any prayer meeting.—

In love

Henry—

Sept. 4th. Beloved Elder George. I have just returned from the Alton Bay Camp Meeting— Two Brethren & three sisters were on the camping ground four days. Several others were present for a day at a time. I think it was a good field for labor. We talked & preached, & sung & distributed tracts & circulars in every place. It was estimated that 30.000 people were present on the Sabbath. How much Believers need to be better known in the world, as a strictly religious body. As the followers of the spirit of Christ. Our public meetings are largely attended, & we are anxious to do good & follow out the teachings of the older class—"Exalt the Lord our God."—

Accept love from all.—

Henry—

A.

Beloved Elder George — Our little sister Flora Williams copied this letter for me. I love to have you know the writer. —

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Shaker Village Mer. Co., N. H. June 23rd 1874.

Beloved Elder George,

I commence on this page my journal of Monday 23rd. This morning we visit the Wash House with Elder Oliver, but the limited time obliges us to make a hasty observation. The steam engine is in the wash room & Francis is the engineer & also assists the sisters where his aid is needed. Everything was in working order, and a general satisfaction seemed to prevail in regard to the accomadations.

At 7 o'clock we bid adieu to Union Village. Beautiful Union Village and beautiful gospel relation who abide in thee. We were by the solicitation of Elder Amos & by the directions left by the Ministry who had proceeded to North Union, induced to visit the societies of White Water & Watervliet. Elder Cephas has provided a span of horses & a covered carriage & was to be our driver the first half of the journey. Elder Amos Parkhurst, Josephine Deming, Maria Wheeler & the writer formed the company. Josephine was a member of the church of White Water & had been on a visit to Union Village some two weeks. Maria was a member of the south family at Union Village and was to make a short visit at White Water. The distance between the two places is 32 miles. Most of the way is on the pike

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and a fare had to be paid at every toll gate. At the half way place we met Elder Henry Bear of White Water with a covered carriage in which we had chairs for seats. The sisters of the Village had provided us with a lunch, of which we made an honorable mention in this place. While we were so pleasantly engaged Elder Cephas took time to give the horses their dinner. For this purpose we had brought a bag full of corn on the cob. Some half bushel or more was poured out on the ground, which gave the horses the privilege to shell their own corn. This might seem wasteful in New Hampshire, but in Ohio economy is studied as well so they think, only in another form. As soon as the horses were fastened to the place for feeding, some four or five pigs were on hand to secure their share of the corn. These little scavangers were ready to secure every kernel that was left by the horses. Lunch over we bid adieu to Elder Cephas & renew our journey. We soon pass through the city of Hamilton, but do not observe anything remarkable that attracts attention. The sisters must do a little shopping. They seemed perfectly at home, and afforded us no little amusement in their rapid passage from store to store. As their purchases were hid from our gaze, we have not the pleasure of informing our readers concerning them. Leaving the city we cross a beautiful bridge over the Big Miami. The great valley that lies between the two Miami's is a very extensive tract of land and contains some of the best farms in the state. On our journey we pass over some rough country. Although not so mountainous

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as New Hampshire they are sufficiently steep and high to be unpleasant in ascending & descending. As we leave the fertile valley of the Miami, the farms bear a closer resemblance to those of the North, and a miserable condition of houses & barns became more common. At ½ p. 3 P. M. we reach White Water, very much to our satisfaction. The day had been extremely warm and the close confinement for so many hours was not so agreeable as one would wish.

The street through this village runs North & South. The buildings are mostly on the east side of the road, & several rods distant from it. Directly in front of the houses are some evergreens, not less than 20 ft. high, an evidence that the White Water Shakers studied the ornamental quite a number of years before the same was admitted in the east. A very nice fence has been made beside the road, in front of the dwellings. One of the sisters assisted by a little girl was engaged in painting it white. The sister was protected from the sun by a large umbrella, which was attached to the chair. The Elders of this family are Elder Henry Bear, George Amory, Lucy Woodward & Susan Estherbrooks. The Trustees Matthew Carter, Alexander Butler, Lucy Ann Bear, & Elizabeth Sharpe. The meeting house is at the North or gathering family which was formerly the Chh. family. This society own some 1400 acres of land. A large part is excellent for tillage & very fertile. They keep 20 cows. Several of the Br. & Sisters call at the office in the evening, where we enjoy a pleasant visit.

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Tuesday June 24th.

After breakfast we are invited to the dwelling house to see some of the Brethren & Sisters. After a short interview we then under the directions of Elder Henry to the Kitchen & bake room. We find the galvinised oven in use. As the time to tarry in this place is so limited we visit but few places. White Water is surrounded by woodland Not a hill nor a mountain is to be seen. The little village seems to be hidden from the world. A lovely spot consecrated to the Lord.

We visited the School house. It was some distance from the Church family & within a few feet of the highway. It had a small yard in front, in which were some flowers. The interior of the house was in medium repair, and considerably well furnished. The school keeps six monthes in the year & all the boys & girls attend at the same time. The teacher is examined by a committee, but the school is not visited by them. I learned that the district was No. 10. The wash house at this place is a beautiful brick building and is well arranged for the business. The office is on the opposite side of the road from the dwellings & is also of Brick & furnished with blinds. Every room was kept in the best order. There was a neatness that spread a halo over the whole place. As our visit to this place was through the kindness of the Beloved Ministry of Union Village, we feel greatly indebted to them for the privilege.

At eleven o'clock Elder Amos, Elder Henry & the writer ride to the North family some 3/4 of a mile distant. We find here Elder Ezra

Sherman Eldress Betsey G. Gass, and the companion of Elder Ezra Charles Faraday. We are invitated to take dinner in this family. It was all that one could wish, and to this Elder Amos, Elder Henry and the writer can witness. We are afforded the opportunity of an interview with the family which was very pleasant. Elder Ezra could not reconcile his mind to think well of the Granite State for farming. He thought the land too uneven at White Water. We took in to the Ch.h. or meeting house. It was neat and all things well arranged. The old style of benches without backs are still in use benches which have no mercy for the backs of those who use them.

At 1/2 p 2 P.M. we ride to the south family which is under the charge of Brother Geo. Rubush. Br. George and several sisters are the active force in this family. The sister who has charge is 79 yrs. of age. We spend about 3/4 of an hour here and then return to the Church. As we pass by the place of burial we concluded to enter. The lot contains about two acres & is surrounded by a hedge, which at this time is considerably higher than our heads. In the center of the lot is the grave Elder Rufus Bishop of Mt. Lebanon who died while on a tour to the western societies in 1852. A small rough slab of flag stone marks the spot on which is engraven R. B. 1852 age   On one side of the lot were several graves, a part only having stones to designate them.

In the evening several of the Brethren & Sisters come to the office for a visit.

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June 25th

Last night we were visited by a very heavy thunder storm. It had the effect of keeping us awake till a late hour. We were blest last night with a remarkably short nap. Elder Henry was on hand at 1/4 p 3 A. M. to warn us to arise, and 1/2 p 3 we were ready to leave the beautiful little village of White Water. Sister Julia Ann has provided us with a lunch for breakfast, & as we are ready to start she makes the pleasant enquiry of the writer if he has got all his plunder. We are now on our way to Hamilton a distance of 10 miles where we are to take the cars for Dayton. We make our journey over some very high & steep hills & as rough as any found in New Hampshire. We reach Hamilton at 1/4 of 7 after a tedious journey over the hills and through the mud. The cars are to leave at 1/2 p 8 A. M. On our way we see some Catalpa trees. They are in full blossom and look beautifully. Elder Henry parted with us at the depot, and Elder Amos & the writer amused ourselves as best we could as the varied objects presented themselves before us. Our car ride lasted about an hour. On arriving at Dayton we are met by Elder Stephen Ball & Elder Amos Edy. We are accommodated in a beautiful one horse covered carriage. We learn that the city limits extend nearly to the settlement of the Believers. The horse cars run to within three miles of the village. The highway runs East & West. The Shaker Village is several rods from the main road & is reached by a private road. We first reach the

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Shaker Village. N.H. Sept. 16th 1874.

Beloved Elder George.

The beginning of this letter finds us in the forenoon of Wednesday, and in the beautiful little village of White Water.

Leaving the main road we first reach the gathering order which has a large brick dwelling & several other buildings. Passing on a hundred or more yards we reach the Church. Their dwelling is also of brick. The society contains about 50 persons. They have no building expressly for an office & Elder Amos & the writer are accommodated with a room in the dwelling house.

The Elders are Stephen Ball, John Atkinson, Adaline Wells & Hester Ann Frost. The meeting house is a two storied building & looks well on the outside. The society does not hold public meetings. The meeting room is 40 × 60 & was painted two years ago of a light blue & looks pretty. The floor was good. At each end of the room is to be seen a large fire place, which gives it rather an old fashioned appearance. We go up stairs. This has only the frame as the carpenters left it years ago. In one corner they had partitioned off a small room in which to keep the school. It was well furnished with maps & charts, but they are without a <u>school</u> <u>teacher</u>.

They have recently remodelled a building for the

little girls. & it is now comfortably arranged. Everything was kept very neat even to the dress of the smallest children. The boys shop was a small, old building, with limited accommodations (most anything will do for boys, & they make most anything as they grow up) Two sisters have the charge & sleep in the shop. The oldest boy was 13 & the youngest an infant. This family through the season of harvest rise at 4 A.M. Breakfast at 5. Dine at 11, & take supper at 5. After the last meal they return immediately to the fields, where they had left their teams, and work as long as they can see. This society owns 5000 acres of excellent land. The garden covers 5 acres. They cultivate for the market & have a stall in the city which is kept by one of the Brethren. A few rods from the buildings they have a pond covering several acres. The church members of Dayton used it last Sabbath for a baptismal fount. The fence in front of the dwelling house as well as around the meeting house is painted white.

Thursday June 26th.

We visit the gathering order. It contains two Brethren & several sisters. At this place they have a mill & a set of 36 inch carding machines. They manufacture stocking yarn. The Brethren do the carding & spinning & the sisters do the twisting. We find a musical instrument in this

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place. It is a dulcimer, Of about as much value for our singers as a tin whistle. It has eight set of wires, three in a set. The player uses little hammers made of cork with bone handles. It gives a very soft & sweet music. Watervliet has 300 acres of woodland. They have nice stock. The land yields 75 & 80 bushels of corn to the acre or three tons of grass. No mountains are to be seen. A level tract of land extends from the village nearly two miles.

Friday June. 27th.

We leave Watervliet at 1/4 of 6 for Dayton, take the cars at 1/4 p 9 A.M. & reach Cleveland at 4 P.M. Here we meet Elder Pomeroy Root of North Union. He has a nice two horse carriage for our accommodation. The Shaker society is 7 miles distant from the lake or from the depot. The city limits extend to within 1/2 mile of the Believers mill, which is not far from their Mill family. For a mile after we leave the city the roads are in a dreadful condition. Large stone teams are passing over them every day. One quarry the Believers have leased for 5 yrs at $500 per year & another for $250 pr yr. They have 600 acres of woodland.

Here we are again among the peacocks. On reaching our room for the night, we observed not less than four of those unmerciful screamers within a few feet of our window. It is the office garden & has within its limits Trees, shrubs.

"vines, peacocks, ducks & hens. Altogether it is a peculiar place. The road at North Union runs North & South & the buildings of the Church are on each side. The office is a medium sized building — of wood, the outside painted a dull drab & the inside blue. The dwelling house is painted green inside. At this place we meet the whole order of Union Village Ministry — Elders Amos Parkhurst & William Reynolds — Eldress Sally Sharp & Naomi Legier. They have the charge of Union Village, North Union, White Water & Watervliet. The Ministry visit this place once each year and then remain here about three weeks. We visit the Meeting House. It was built in 1846. & is finished like the one at Watervliet N.Y. The society contains about 100 members, some 53 of them are in the Ch. They keep a beautiful herd of cows, and sell all the milk in the city. The cow barn was built 5 yrs ago & is in nice order. They have a very valuable piece of woods, within a few rods of the buildings. In this we find poplar, beech, chestnut & maple. Some of these trees are 3½ ft Dia & 140 ft high. The soil here is a clay mixture & not adapted to wheat. The believers rent most of the land on shares.

We walk to the grave yard. It has just 100 graves,

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Most of these are furnished with stones. It is the sand stone of the place. A square of about 4 inches is made smooth near the top of the stone, & the initials of the person is cut on this. The stone bears no other letters nor figures. The sisters are buried on the north half of the yard & the Brethren on the south half. This peculiarity has been observed since the formation of the society in 1822. We find one brother making brooms — they also manufacture stocking yarn. They make their own broom handles, & one of the brethren has invented a lathe to turn the handles. Lightening rods are on all the buildings.

"The Lord's Day. June 29th. The milkman has just received his load of milk for the city. Breakfast at 1/2 p 6. Attend a singing meeting at 9 o'clock. For several years the society have held no public meetings. — We will notice the bill of fare for dinner — Boiled rice Blackberry sauce, Custard pie, Washington Cake, Bread Butter & Cheese — Ice cream & Tea.

Attend society meeting at 1/2 p 2. Exercises about the same as in other places. Several of the Brethren & Sisters speak during the meeting, and they finally concluded to open the public meeting during the summer.

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Monday June 30th. The Elders of the church are Eld. Pomeroy Root, Samuel Minor. Rachel Russell & Mary Shepard.

Gathering Family — Eld John Pilot — Lydia Cramer & Lucetta Walker.

Mill Family Eld James Prescott. Prudence Sawyer & Climena Minor.

To day with Eld Amos & Eld Pomeroy we visit the gathering order. It is about 3/4 of a mile distant from the Ch'h. Most of the buildings, the several families are painted some dark color, as dark slate, dark drab, dark yellow or dark green. The dwelling house at this place is quite old, & worn. One part of the house, inside, has been repainted, and is in striking contrast with the part left. Some of the doors were grained. others had drab pannels & pink trimmings. Some of the wood work was marbled. The meeting room had a peculiarly neat appearance. The ceiling overhead was painted in colors. It was a new feature & some of the sisters attempted to make an apology. but it was needless. — (Apologies are almost indigestible in every sense of the word.) So I shall make none for ending so abruptly —

Henry —

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Shaker Village, N.H. Sept. 1874

Beloved Elder George—

We are still at North Union— We left you in our last at the gathering order. Well, We returned to the Ch.h. for our dinner, & soon after bid adieu to our gospel friends. We stop a few minutes at the Mill family. Find Eld James to be 71 yrs of age, but still active. Eld Pomeroy is 75 yrs of age. We take the cars in Cleveland at ½ p 4 on the Lake Shore R.R. and reach Niagara Falls at 1 o'clock in the night. The coachman told us a falsehood & then took us to a wrong hotel. It was, however, one of the best houses, & we soon found ourselves snugly in bed.

Tuesday July 1st. Rise at 5 o'clock. We are now at Niagara Falls. Well, it is a great thing to be here, but really we wish we were at Shaker Village N.H. We walk out— The walk costs us 25 cts. We soon saw all that we cared for, & having paid $2,00 for three hours sleep & 50 cts to get our trunk to the Depot we left at ½ p 7 for Rochester. Without supper & without breakfast we are again hurrying through the world. Reach Rochester at ½ p 11 A.M. Must wait here till 5 P.M. before the cars leave for Mt Morris.

The Depot at the Shaker Village in Groveland is called Sonyea. It is simply a platform & like the Virginia depots has no covering or roof. It is situated about 1/4 mile from the office. Although we are now or near home & have entered a society with which you are familiar, still we will add a few items, which may prove of interest. The C.F. have the best dwelling house that is found among Believers. It is 110 ft long & 54 ft wide. & built of brick. It is 4 stories high. & abundantly lighted. The whole house is also furnished with green blinds. The meeting room is on the first floor & in the center of the house. The Kitchen department is in another building, entirely separated from the main house & about one rod distant. By this arrangement the dwelling is freed from the scent of the cooking, and also from the plague of flies that always infest the cook room. Every thing in and about the house was as neat as wax work, and on the whole, we thought that Groveland was at the present time, the most beautiful society in the land. Elder Peter has been profuse in the setting out of Shade & fruit trees. All the prominent buildings in the C.F. family are also new & well painted. The meeting room, in the meeting house, was painted

a light gray and the doors grained like mahogany.
The settees are cushioned. Really what they do in this
place is done in the very best manner. Br Emery was
interested to show us his room in the dwelling, which
he had so carefully fitted up. The Brethren & Sisters
all seemed to appreciate their home as one of
excellence. Although they now have two canals
within half a mile of the Church family, and a
line of R.R. still nearer, yet another R.R. is being
built within a few rods of the buildings. To some of
us this would a very sad annoyance & we would
rather have less of this worlds goods & a more quiet
place. We stopped at Groveland only one day, &
then passed on to Mt Lebanon; stopped over night
and reach Harvard on Saturday P.M. where we tarried
over the Sabbath, and found ourselves once more in
Shaker Village among the Granite Hills on Tuesday,
July 8th. We had been absent just two months &
had not met with an accident nor been sick one
day. Then Elder George, this close my trip
to the west. I have tried to be as brief as consistent
lest it might seem like a very extended story.
If it has proved to be of any pleasure to you or to

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other dear friends at your home I shall be amply compensated. Since my visit to the South & West I have thought a great deal about the many societies of Believers in the land, and of the course they are pursuing. They are all blessed with an abundance of houses & lands, and while some are content to sit by and watch these lest they fade away, others may be found who are faithfully spending their lives for both the temporal & spirituality of the cause. On the whole I think that Believers need a religious revival among themselves, about as much as they think the world need it. — Our Ministry are at Enfield. Will be with us in two weeks from this date, accompanied by the Alfred Ministry. — Pleasant Hill has purchased an organ. Union Village has two. — Eld H. L. E. writes that they fear they shall not recover any more of their lost money— The case was decided against them, recently & they have now appealed to the Supreme court— If they fail here they will lose some $60.000 (sixty thousand dollars) O, dear! how I wish I had a part of it for missionary purposes. Eld H thinks they are better able to give culls big sweet potatoes, than to give them gospel truths. How much we are alike, only change <u>sweet</u> for <u>Irish</u> — Love to all dear gospel friends —

Henry —

SHAKER COLLECTION

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